

March 7, 1985

TO: File

FROM: Steve Cox, Reclamation Biologist *sc*

RE: On-Site Visit, Delano Development Corporation,
Sulphurdale Mine, ACT/001/001, Beaver County, Utah

On March 5, 1985, I was accompanied on a tour of the Sulphurdale Mine property by Mr. Gordon Ford, President, Delano Development Corporation. The purpose of the visit was to update the Division's file on this mine and to discuss with Mr. Ford Division requirements for his operation.

The majority of the mine site was covered with four to five inches of snow although areas near the pit were cleared of snow due to the geothermal heat produced near the ground surface. The minesite did not look different from photos taken of the site in 1979. No new structures or additional disturbances were observed. The only difference was that the pit was partially filled with water which comes from springs within the pit. Also, adjacent to and east of the minesite, a geothermal power plant is being constructed. It will supply power to the city of Provo beginning this summer. The wells have been completed and foundations were being poured. This disturbance is not under the Division's jurisdiction.

According to the Division's files, on March 14, 1979, Forminco, Inc., filed a MR-1 form with the Division to cover all mining properties at Sulphurdale. A response was never sent to Mr. Ford, and, therefore, he attempted no further communication until contacted in January 1985. During this site visit, Mr. Ford stated that Forminco, Inc., had stockpiled several thousand tons of mined sulphur in 1977 to sell as fertilizer, soil conditioner, etc. Since that time, there has been a much smaller demand for their product than anticipated. Therefore, the stockpile has never been completely depleted. He stated that since 1977, there has been no disturbance over two acres or 500 tons of material mined in a year. Since the Division has very limited information on this operation due to lack of site visits, there appears to be no reason to dispute this claim. This operation, as it exists at this point in time should be classified as a DOE according to definitions under Rule M-2(d) and (c).

Future plans for this operation were also discussed with Mr. Ford. He said that during late 1984, Forminco, Inc., had been bought out by Delano Development Corporation, the current owners of the property. This Company is currently pursuing two contracts to sell sulphur which would greatly increase

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production at Sulphurdale. One contract would involve shipping approximately 40,000 tons of material per month for 10 years to companies in India for use as fertilizer. Processing facilities would be built on site, a rail loadout would possibly be constructed at Black Rock, Utah, and mining would begin three to four months after the contract had been signed.

The other contract would be to supply approximately 2,000 tons of sulphur per day to Brush Wellman near Delta for conversion to sulphuric acid. Stockpiling of material would begin this summer if that contract is signed. Mr. Ford indicated that he should know if either of these contracts are secured within the next two months. He was told that if either contract is secured, he should notify the Division immediately and begin assembling a Mining and Reclamation Plan to submit to the Division.

As a note, Mr. Steve McNeal, Department of Health, was contacted by telephone on March 12, 1985, in regards to possible problems with discharge of pit water into the stream. He said that the Company had dug a ditch to drain the pit without authorization from the Department of Health or Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). There is a concern that the pit water is greatly lowering the pH of the stream. The matter has been referred to EPA for further action. The Division will be notified of any actions taken.

btb
cc: Ron Daniels
Lowell Braxton
8878R-5 & 6